

Ezekiel 43:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

Analysis

God commands Ezekiel: 'shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities.' The vision's purpose isn't mere information but conviction leading to repentance. Seeing God's holy standards exposes human failure—the law's pedagogical function (Galatians 3:24). The phrase 'let them measure the pattern' means examining God's design produces self-examination. When Israel compares God's perfect blueprint to their defiled reality, shame should result—not paralyzing guilt but godly sorrow producing repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). The Hebrew **נָחַץ** (*kalam*, 'ashamed') indicates humiliation before truth, prerequisite for restoration. Reformed theology emphasizes conviction precedes conversion—seeing God's holiness exposes our sinfulness, driving us to Christ. The vision confronts complacency: you've fallen short, but restoration is possible through repentance.

Historical Context

The exiles needed conviction for several reasons:

1. some blamed God unjustly for exile (Ezekiel 18:25)
2. others minimized their sin (Ezekiel 33:10-11)
3. many had forgotten proper worship during decades in Babylon.

Showing them the ideal temple exposed their ancestors' corrupted practices and their own compromised faith. The command to 'measure the pattern' recalls God showing Moses the tabernacle pattern (Exodus 25:9, 40), Aaron's installation as high priest (Leviticus 8-9), and David receiving temple plans (1 Chronicles 28:11-19). In each case, divine pattern preceded human obedience. For the exiles, who hadn't seen proper temple worship since childhood (or at all for younger generations), this vision re-educated them in God's standards. Shame over past failure should motivate future faithfulness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. When did examining God's holiness last produce godly shame over your sin rather than defensive justification?
2. How do you 'measure the pattern'—comparing your life against God's Word to identify shortcomings?
3. Does this vision challenge you to higher standards or merely confirm comfortable mediocrity?

Interlinear Text

אֶתְּ הַ	בֶּן	אָדָם	הִגֵּד	אֶת	הַבַּיִת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	הַבַּיִת
H859	Thou son	of man	shew	H853	the house	of Israel	H853	the house
	H1121	H120	H5046		H1004	H3478		H1004
וְיִכְלֹמוּ			מִעֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם		וּמִדָּד וְ		אֶת	תְּכֵנִית:
that they may be ashamed			of their iniquities		and let them measure		H853	the pattern
H3637			H5771		H4058			H8508

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:4 (References Israel): And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

Ezekiel 43:11 (Parallel theme): And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.

Ezekiel 16:61 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant.

Ezekiel 16:63 (Parallel theme): That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.